Kennedy Won't Comment

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 — President Kennedy declined to comment at his news conference today on Cuba's latest charges that several agents of the Central Intelligence Agency had been captured and faced possible death sentences.

In reply to another question, the President repeated his belief that there had been a "marked decrease" in the number of Soviet troops stationed in Cuba. Although he refused to give figures, Mr. Kennedy said that in the last two months there had been further reductions. [Question 16, Page 14.]

Administration sources said that in recent weeks "several hundred" Soviet troops were known to have left, making the estimate of remaining forces "between 7,000 and 8,000." In addition, the Soviet Union was reported to have been taking out highly sophisticated electronic equipment and replacing it with more ordinary equipment, including tanks and jeeps.

Crowd Hails Actions

MIAMI, Oct. 31 (UPI)—A cheering crowd before the Presidential Palace tonight approved the confiscation of United States parcel post packages, rises in food prices and tighter sugar rationing.

Premier Castro announced the measures last night. He said tonight he had summoned the crowd "to pass some laws" to provide money to repair hurricane damage.

Shortly before he spoke tonight, the Havana radio announced another execution—the fourth in 24 hours.

In his speech, monitored here, the Premier also praised Herbert L. Matthews of The New York Times, who is visiting Cuba with his wife. He described him as "not a Marxist-Leninist newspaperman but one of liberal ideas."

Mr. Matthews' interview with Major Castro when he was fighting in the Sierra Maestra disproved the Batista Government's contention that Major Castro had been killed. Mr. Matthews is again visiting Oriente Province, Premier Castro said.

Mr. Matthews, a member of the editorial board of The New York Times, is visiting Latin-American countries.